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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Venezuela

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SUBJECT Current Political Situation

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Prior to 23 October 1951

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1. The Venezuelan Government considers that the recent disturbances, attributed to Accion Democratica party members and the Communists, have been brought under control. However, it is generally believed in official government circles that minor incidents will continue to occur for some time. Authorities are continuing their search for persons involved in the disturbances, and for any arms caches.
2. On 20 October a message containing coded text was intercepted and decoded, indicating that an attack was to be made on the Guardia Nacional School in Las Flores, Caracas, on the morning of 21 October. A group of approximately 43 persons actually attempted such an attack, and the government reported that 40 were captured, 2 wounded and 1 killed. On the same day "nipple-type" bombs were thrown at the transmitters of Radio Caracas, Ondas Populares, and Radiodifusora Venezuela. Little damage was caused.
3. One of the leaders of the group attacking the Guardia Nacional school was Captain Roberto Morean Soto (retired), who was arrested. Morean, a former cavalry officer, was reportedly arrested in April 1950 for AD activities. At the time of his arrest he was on active duty at the La Guaira garrison.
4. What was described as a powerful transmitter was being operated in the vicinity of Caracas on 21 October and had not been located as of 22 October. The station was reported to be broadcasting on the following frequencies: 1200, 6200, 6400, 6600, and 6950 kc. Early Sunday morning, at the time of the attack on the Guardia Nacional, the station was on the air informing the populace that the revolution was beginning.

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5. Terrorist plans being carried out by Accion Democratica are believed led by Leonardo Ruiz Pineda, former Secretary-General of AD. In August 1951 Ruiz requested an interview with Lt. Col. Carlos Morales Morales, Chief of Police in Caracas. Morales arranged a conference with Ruiz, at which the latter stated that he was authorized by the AD to offer that party's co-operation with the Junta until a constitutional government was established. For this co-operation the AD requested the Junta to permit the legalization of the AD and Communist parties and participation in the scheduled elections. Political prisoners were to be freed and exiles permitted to return. The offer was refused by Morales. Since this conference the police have been looking for Ruiz, but to date he has avoided capture.
6. A number of armed men are still at large in the State of Sucre, and government forces are attempting to track them down. The insurrectionists' activities in Sucre varied from the pattern followed in other areas. At Rio Caribe a group attacked all government offices and buildings, seizing arms and freeing and arming prisoners. The group thus reinforced, left town and went into the hills in the vicinity of Tunapuy. A simultaneous attempt was made to attack government offices in the town of Guiria, but this was unsuccessful.
7. It has also been reported that the Junta received reports from Cuba which indicate that plans exist for sending armed men to Venezuela. At present there are alleged to be concentrations of AD members in Trinidad, presumably ready to cross to Venezuela to assist the insurrectionists. Travel of AD adherents between Havana and Trinidad has become frequent in the past few months, using the FAMA airline service. A number of cases have been reported to Venezuelan authorities of AD members travelling on false Cuban passports, allegedly obtained through the co-operation of the Cuban Minister of Foreign Affairs.